



President's Commission: Social Problems Impacting Public Safety Hearing – Federal Programming

- **Trauma Informed Care + Affordable Housing = Housing Stability.** Homelessness is often viewed as a single population. However, the best way to address homelessness is not a one size fits all approach, but rather tailoring services and supports to an individual's needs.
- Homelessness increases the risk of criminal justice involvement, and vice versa.
 - Anywhere from 25 to 50% of people experiencing homelessness have a history of incarceration.
 - In 2016, over 50,000 people that entered shelter came directly from a correctional facility.
 - Both incarceration and homelessness disproportionately impact people of color by wide margins.
- The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) continues to pursue steps to reduce criminal justice system involvement among people experiencing homelessness.
- Last year, USICH held the ***Convening on Law Enforcement and Homeless Services Partnerships in Ending Homelessness*** in partnership with the Council of State Governments Justice Center.
 - This convening brought together law enforcement and homelessness services representatives from 10 communities to discuss how to strengthen partnerships to respond to homelessness among people who come into contact with law enforcement.
 - Participating communities included: Austin, Texas; Charleston, South Carolina; Mississippi Balance of State; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Portland, Oregon; San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara, California; Seattle, Washington; and Wichita, Kansas.
- Promising practices that were discussed at this convening include: 1) Develop shared goals, clearly define roles, and engage other critical stakeholders. 2) Use data to understand local need and assess progress. 3) Review and align local laws and ordinances to support the goals of the partnership. 4) Equip law enforcement officers and their homelessness service system counterparts with protocols and training. 5) Divert people from the criminal justice system while supporting long-term stabilization.
- When law enforcement and the homelessness service sector successfully collaborate, the community benefits through pre-booking diversion, reduced arrest rates, fewer repeat encounters with law enforcement, and a pathway toward stable housing.
- Communities should determine what strategies will best address their specific needs. Contact your USICH Regional Coordinator to learn more about implementing these strategies.